



# **DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Dale J Schmidt** Sheriff   **Scott Smith** Chief Deputy

## **Law of the Month**

**October 2016**

Beginning October 1, 2016, drivers may not use handheld cell phones in highway maintenance or construction areas, utility work areas, where workers are present and at risk from traffic. The new law makes an exception for drivers using a voice-operated or hands free device and allows the use of handheld phones to report emergencies.

Violation of this law carries a fine of \$162.70 and 4 points. Second violation within a year carries a fine of \$200.50 and another 4 points.

346.89 (4m) No person may drive, as defined in s. 343.305 (1) (b), any motor vehicle while using a cellular or other wireless telephone, including using the telephone for a purpose other than communication, where persons engaged in work in a highway maintenance or construction area or in a utility work area are at risk from traffic, except to report an emergency. This subsection does not apply to the use of a voice-operated or hands-free device if the driver of the motor vehicle does not use his or her hands to operate the device, except to activate or deactivate a feature or function of the device.

Captain Trace Frost of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office wants all motorists to be aware of this new law. Construction areas are often congested and drivers need to pay attention to their driving. "Being distracted while talking on their phones can be dangerous to all in the area, especially highway workers", Frost said. "Please remember, orange cones, put the phones down", Frost added.